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Banbury Cake

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AUGUST 8, 2013 banburycake.co.uk 01295 256111

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10.45am	Pudding Pie demonstrating Focaccia and a pancetta and sundried tomato filled bread
11.45am	Malaysian Memories with Yolanda Tapping
12.45pm	Paul Da Costa-Greaves demonstrating Savoury baked muffins with feta cheese nut free pesto AND Baked wild salmon with spiced prawns and sweet potato puree
1.45pm	Pudding Pie demonstrating Seabass with chorizo and an aubergine confit
2.45pm	Paul Da Costa-Greaves demonstrating char-grilled pineapple with spiced prawns and sweet potato puree AND Summer fruit roll with sweetened basil syrup
3.45pm	Pudding Pie demonstrating Bubble & Squeak cakes with Thai seasoned roast chicken and a chilli and sour cream sauce. Working with Love Food, Hate Waste.

Pudding Pie Cookery School will also be keeping younger minds active with cookie decorating and pasta making on their stand directly next to the demonstration marquee. They are also more than happy to answer any cookery related questions.

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HONOURED AT LAST

Arctic convoy veteran Stan receives his war medal

By Oliver Evans

MORE than seven decades after he risked his life to defeat the Nazis, Arctic convoy veteran Stan Cooper has been honoured by the Government.

The 91-year-old has been presented with the new Arctic Star medal in recognition of his role in helping the Royal Navy deliver vital supplies to the Russians during the Second World War.

Mr Cooper was then a 21-year-old chief petty officer helping to protect a convoy of merchant ships carrying essential war supplies to the Soviets.

His ship, HMS Faulknor, faced sub-zero conditions and the constant threat of attack as it sailed inside the Arctic Circle.

Last year, the Government announced it would honour those who served with the Arctic Star medal. Mr Cooper was helped to apply by his daughter, Christine.

The Bodicote resident remembered his convoy duties: "It was 30 degrees below freezing. It was absolutely awful.

"There was a 60ft swell – one minute we were looking at the propellers of the next boat, then we were looking down its funnel."

The destroyer set out from the Orkney Islands with a crew of 200 on December 18, 1942.

Mr Cooper said: "We were attacked both from the air and by German submarines, but we managed to drive them off without losing any of the boats we were protecting."

The "truly terrible journey" took a week and arrived in Murmansk on Christmas Day at 8.45am.

He said: "The captain said we could have a Christmas dinner.

"But the turkeys in the hold were frozen solid. The cooks said we'd have to wait until Boxing Day, so they had time to thaw them out."

The horrors of war turned even more surreal when the Russians invited the boys to a party.

He said: "We sat and listened to three men playing accordions for a while, and then some – shall we say large – Russian women arrived in full uniform and with cartridge holders around their neck.

"I think we were supposed to dance with them, but we didn't."

He said the return journey – starting on December 30 – was "the worst anyone could imagine" with gale-force winds.

He said: "We had to chip ice off the ship to prevent it becoming top heavy and overturning.

"We saw German bombers and were on stand-by but thankfully they didn't attack."

After being deployed to Italy, Mr Cooper was an instructor in anti-torpedo techniques. Later, when he returned to Oxfordshire, he worked as a caretaker at Barclays Bank in Oxford and then Banbury for 25 years.

After that he helped out as a volunteer for 20 years getting people their appointments at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

Mr Cooper's Arctic Star medal was presented by former Irish Guardsman and Banbury Town Council member Kieron Mallon, a friend of Mr Cooper. He said: "It is impossible for us nowadays to imagine the horrific conditions that Stan and his fellow servicemen endured on the Arctic convoys.

"The extreme cold, the roughest of seas, and attacks by air and on water by the Germans called for a special sort of bravery."

About 1,400 merchant ships from the UK, US and Canada delivered supplies, 85 of which were sunk. Sixteen Royal Navy ships were also lost. The total loss of life is thought to be about 3,000 men.

Stan Cooper, with his medal, *top*, and, *above*, in his Second World War uniform

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More than 60 firefighters douse shop's store room

Drama as blaze hits town centre store

By Tom Jennings

MORE than 60 firefighters from three counties tackled a blaze in the 99p Store's first-floor store room in Banbury.

The fire service was called to the Bridge Street shop at 2.04pm on Friday.

Twelve fire engines, as well as four specialist support vehicles, from Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire attended.

The crew from Banbury arrived within minutes of the alarm being raised and were faced with a "developing fire in the store on the first floor", a fire service spokesman said.

He added: "The incident involved a large amount of flammable goods in the store room. Crews using breathing apparatus, fought hard in extremely hot and arduous conditions to prevent the fire from spreading to the rest of the property and neighbouring businesses."

Firefighters attend the blaze in the 99p shop on Bridge Street, in the centre of Banbury

Staff from the 99p Store had evacuated shoppers. The fire service advised adjacent shops to do the same.

Incident commander Gary Coupar said: "The quick arrival of the crews undoubtedly assisted in restricting the fire from spreading."

The cause of the blaze is being investigated by both the fire service and Thames Valley Police.

● Police are treating a fire at the front door of a house in Fairfax Close, Banbury, as arson.

Officers were called to the blaze, which was put out by a member of the public, just before midnight on Friday.

No one was injured.

Inspector Claire Storry, from Banbury police, said: "We are taking this very seriously and want to hear from anyone who may know something about this incident."

Police officers were patrolling the area on Saturday to reassure the public.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

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Competing plans for ex-town centre hotel go before planners

TWO competing plans to redevelop a derelict former hotel in the centre of Banbury could both win planning permission tonight, a council officer claims.

Slighte Ltd – which owns Crown House – wants to turn the building into a 73-bedroom hotel and five apartments.

But Cherwell District Council is also bidding to turn the Christchurch Court building – which has been empty for 20 years – into 40 affordable flats.

The council made a move in February to force the sale of the derelict building with a Compulsory Purchase Order.

But Slighte immediately put in a planning application. They would have three years grace before having to start work if the firm gets permission from councillors tonight.

Both plans also involve demolishing a mock-tudor building in Bridge Street, though the Trev & Pete's Shearing Shed hairdressers would remain. Slighte wants to replace this building with a restaurant with five flats above, along with 12 flats in the main building, not part of tonight's application.

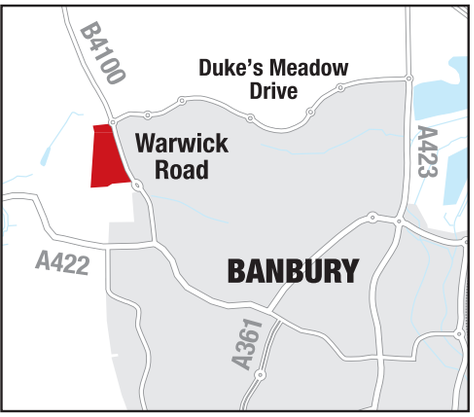
The council wants to knock it down and replace it with four flats and a shop.

Officer urges councillors to reject controversial scheme

Danger golf balls may thwart 300-home plan

CONTROVERSIAL plans for 300 homes could be rejected tonight – partly because balls from a neighbouring golf club could strike homes, a council planning officer said.

Cherwell District Council's Tracey Morrissey has urged councillors reject the plan for up to 300 homes west of Warwick Road, between North Oxfordshire Academy and the Drayton Leisure Golf Centre.



By Oliver Evans

She said a proposed 20m safety net would could have adverse landscape effects and would not completely halt the chance of golf ball flying over.

Mayor of Banbury and golf club leaseholder Nicholas Turner said danger from balls "could force us to close the golf range down on health and safety grounds".

The report before planners also says that the council was already meeting its Government house-building quota for the next five years.

The Miller Homes plan – which would include a small supermarket – had not been listed on the council's planning policy blueprint, its Local Plan.

Councillors approved a scheme for up to 350 homes on the other side of Warwick Road, north of Dukes Meadow Drive, in June. This had been included in its draft Local Plan.

Some 30 residents objected to the Miller Homes plan, with concerns it would "destroy" the local countryside and increase traffic congestion.

Karen Jones, of Sackville Court, Hanwell, said the council's draft Local Plan should be approved before any of its sites win planning permission.

She added: "Development of the site would tend to erode the strategic gap between the village of Drayton and Banbury."

Julie Rees, of Booth Road, Hanwell Fields, was among those who signed a letter opposing the scheme. This warned of an "unacceptable" increase in traffic and said that "the demand for housing was not as great as the council proposed".

But 11 people supported the plan, saying it was a better site than the 350-home scheme already approved.

James Williams, of Meadowsweet Way, was among those who backed a letter of support. It said: "This development would provide better traffic integration on Warwick Road and potentially lessen the impact of traffic at the Southam Road/Hennef Way island."

Hanwell Parish Council said the site was "arguably more sustainable than others proposed".

It would not erode the gap between the village and Banbury, it said, though it objected because it was "premature" and because of the impact on Drayton.

The council's planning committee last month approved a 400-home extension to the west of the Bretch Hill estate, also in the Local Plan.

Other sites in the plan are 950 homes at "Canalside", south of Banbury train station; 600 either side of Southam Road to the north of the town, and 400 at "Bankside", off Bloxham Road.

The committee will meet from 4pm at Bodicote House, White Post Road, Bodicote. The public can attend.

InBRIEF

Police probe toilets death

A MAN died inside public toilets in Banbury last Thursday.

Officers from Thames Valley Police were called to Bridge Street at 12.11pm to reports of fear for a man's welfare.

The man was unconscious at the time, and was confirmed dead at 12.58pm.

The death is being treated as unexplained.

Advice on offer

A DROP-in centre for advice on anything from housing benefits to waste services, will be staged in Banbury on August 22. The session at Neithrop Library, in Woodgreen Avenue, will take place from 10am until 1pm. No appointment is needed. Details: 01295 227001 or email customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Driving ban

DAMON Alvey, 44, of Gascoigne Way, Bloxham, admitted drink-driving in Banbury on July 15. He had 101mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mgs. He was banned from driving for 24 months and fined £415, ordered to pay a £42 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

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Date is set for organ festival

THIS year's Banbury Street Organ Festival and Town Criers' Day will take place on Saturday, September 7.

Collections by barrel organ players will raise cash for the town's youth homeless charity, BYHP, and mark their 21st annual appearance in the town.

Town criers and organists come from across England to the traditional event, to begin with a 10.30am parade from Whately Hall Hotel, Horsefair, to the Town Hall in Bridge Street.

The town criers' contest – in its ninth year – will begin at 11am at the bandstand in High Street, with the second round at 2pm.

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Now Cherwell launches a pots and pans UK first

PEOPLE in North Oxfordshire are the first in the country to be able to recycle their pots and pans in neighbourhood banks.

Across the Cherwell district, there are now six metal banks where people can recycle items such as pots and pans, bicycle parts and metal hand tools.

A Cherwell District Council spokesman said the banks were the first of their kind to be introduced in the UK.

Nigel Morris, Cherwell's lead member for clean and green, said: "As a council, we have always placed a huge emphasis on recycling – so we are constantly looking at new ways to divert waste away from landfill and into the recycling system.

"By providing residents with plenty of opportunities to recycle as many items as possible, we will achieve just that. The introduction of metal recycling is the latest stage in that vision."

Last year people living in Banbury, as well as Bicester, Kidlington and surrounding villages, recycled more than 3,200 tonnes of waste at the recycling sites.

InBRIEF

Overcrowding on rail route

A COUNTY train service has been named as the fifth most overcrowded route in the UK. One day, an early morning Banbury-to-Marylebone service had 256 more passengers aboard than it should have had. The figures, released by the Department for Transport, showed that last autumn the seven carriages, which are meant to hold 476 people, were actually taking 732 into the capital.

Play debate

A CONSULTATION with local people has been running over planned improvements to Moorfields Park, Banbury. Banbury Town Council has £100,000 to spend on new playground equipment. An exhibition of ideas has been staged in the town hall in Bridge Street. The consultation will close tomorrow.

Advice session

AN advice session for issues like benefits and unemployment will be staged by Cherwell District Council at Neithrop Library, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury, on Thursday, August 22, from 10am to 1pm. For information call 01295 227001.

Youngsters offered chance to take part in National Citizen Service

Students sign up for a social lesson

By Charlotte Krol

THE summer holidays are often a time for children to unwind from a busy year at school.

But for a group of local young people, it's about getting active, meeting new people and creating projects that will benefit local communities.

Sixty Oxfordshire teenagers from a range of different social backgrounds have enrolled on the Government's National Citizen Service – which offers activities ranging from tackling high ropes to learning first-aid.

It's the first time that 16- and 17-year-olds in the county have had the opportunity to officially join the four-week service – provided by the voluntary youth charity, Oxfordshire Association for Young People.

Oxfordshire County Council launched a pilot programme for around 30 teenagers with the help of the charity in 2011 and again in 2012. Now it is providing another four-week course that overlaps with OAYP's current programme.

NCS project manager Jodie Leftwich said: "The programme is about encouraging youngsters to meet other people they may not usually mix with – be it pupils from private schools or state-funded schools – and getting them to work together in a unique programme."

The first week included outdoor team-building activities in Hampshire, followed by camping at the Youlbury Scout Activity Centre in Boars Hill, where youngsters took part in a number of workshops. These included a first-aid session organised by the British Red Cross and a talk from the Young Classical Artists Trust.

Miss Leftwich added: "What's amazing about the programme is just how quickly everyone became friends.

"These teenagers were taken out of their comfort zones and learned how to pull together."

One student, 17-year-old Archie Stay, said: "It was fantastic. I would say meeting new people was the highlight. We really got to know each other on tasks like the high ropes, where you had to put your trust in strangers.

"I've got several ideas for my social action project. My main aim will be to provide some kind of service that brings youth in Oxfordshire together."

The National Citizen Service costs £50 per participant, which covers the activities, accommodation, food and transport during the four weeks.

Seventeen-year-old Iris Yeung said: "I've been really surprised how it went. I can't believe how close we've all become.

"Now I really want to create a project that makes a significant difference to a local community."

The 60 pupils will have a special citizen graduation at Oxford Brookes, Oxford, on September 7 to celebrate their efforts, funded by the university.

Iris Yeung and Archie Stay are shown how to light a campfire by outdoor pursuits instructor Ian Horrocks as part of National Citizen Service OX60835

In the running for national apprentice of the year

COUNTY firms and employees are among those shortlisted for the regional heat of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2013.

Among the nominees is Banbury's Kaine Parker, who works at Bicester Village and who has been shortlisted for the title of intermediate level apprentice of the year.

Wantage's Lydia Feasey, who works at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, has been nominated for the advanced level apprentice of the year.

Thame's DAF Trucks is nominated for the large employer of the year.

The awards – in their tenth year – will be held at Reading's Madejski Stadium on September 19.

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Recycling workers on a ten-year anniversary tour

ABOUT 12,000 homes will be visited by council recycling staff to celebrate ten years of the green initiative in Cherwell.

The six Cherwell District Council staff will visit homes across the district this month.

Key messages will include the importance of food-waste recycling and fines that hit the council if it sends too much waste to landfill.

Some 133,000 tonnes of district waste been recycled and 137,000 tonnes composted over the last decade.

The council said this had saved it £9.7m in landfill tax fines.

Cherwell's clean and green chief, Nigel Morris, said: "It has been ten years since we first introduced recycling in Cherwell and during that time our residents have shown incredible support for creating a cleaner and greener district.

"Last year, 55 per cent of all waste was recycled in Cherwell – which is fantastic – but we are always looking for opportunities to increase this figure."

He added: "These visits will not only enable us to offer advice and information face-to-face, but give us the chance to personally thank people for the great work they have done so far and to continue to do so on a daily basis."

Banbury Cake

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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010 was 77.4%

Clubs reap the rewards

YOUNG farmers across Oxfordshire have been recognised for raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

Oxfordshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs received the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Prince of Wales Perpetual Charity Challenge Trophy for raising almost £24,000 for a string of different causes.

Each of the ten clubs across Oxfordshire nominated two charities to support throughout the year.

In 2013, the causes chosen included national charities such as Cancer Research UK and Farm Crisis Network, as well as local causes like the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

County chairman Grace Bennett was presented with the trophy by *Countryfile* TV presenter Matt Baker, a former president of the National

By Fran Bardsley

Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.

She said: "It is a great pleasure to receive this award and also a privilege for me to be chairman of such an enthusiastic and committed bunch of members.

"All of the fundraising events we have organised have been great fun.

"However, they are not spontaneous. They require a huge amount of work, effort and organisation from our members to make it all possible."

There are about 270 members of the young farmers organisations across the county, ranging in age from ten to 26.

The groups supported 11 different charities through fundraising activities, including bingo evenings, tractor pulls and quiz nights.

Maggie's Cancer Care Centre, Oxford, was the biggest winner, receiving a £18,500 fundraising boost.

Miss Bennett added: "The future looks bright when there is a large group of young people who are highly motivated and generous with their time and money.

"Oxfordshire FYFC is always looking for new members, and you definitely don't have to be a farmer to join. It's just a great way to meet new people and make new friends."

County co-ordinator Jo Arnold said: "Oxfordshire Young Farmers' is a charity itself and we obviously have to raise money to keep us going, but members are also prepared to raise money for other charities.

"It was a fantastic amount of money."

To find out more about the organisation, which will be holding a new members week, starting September 16, visit ofyfc.org.uk

Oxfordshire Young Farmers county chairman Grace Bennett receives an award from *Countryfile* presenter Matt Baker

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Success of a civic duet

A MUSIC project between a youth charity and Cherwell District Council has ended on a high note.

Cherwell District Council worked with BYHP – which supports homeless young people – on the Talent Revival music software and technology course.

Those who took part were aged 16 to 25 and had been helped with housing needs by the charity. They worked with musician Simon Hill on the project.

Cherwell's John Donaldson said: "Together with BYHP, we've determined that music would be a good way to reach and engage with these young people.

"Arts projects are effective in helping people learn skills, develop opportunities, grow in confidence and take on new challenges."

Raves warning

POLICE are calling on landowners to block off entrances and check gates are secure to prevent illegal raves on their land.

Thames Valley Police said there was an increased chance of revellers holding one of the music events over the summer.

Call police on 101 with information.

InBRIEF

Council seats up for grabs

■ NOMINATIONS are being sought for seats on Adderbury and Bloxham parish councils. Vacancies are available after Kevin Morris stepped down at Adderbury and Alan Miller at Bloxham. If more than one person applies, the council will cast a vote on who gets the seat. Contact Theresa Goss on 01295 710965. The closing date for Bloxham is August 29 and September 12 for Adderbury.

Party cash

■ **AT a party staged by a town recruitment firm, £600 was raised in a raffle for Katharine House Hospice. Plus One Personnel held the event – including live music – at Overthorpe Hall, Banbury, on July 12.**

Park views

■ A TWO-week public consultation on improvements to the Moorfield Park play area in Grimsbury, ends on Tuesday. An exhibition that explains the planned changes is on display in the town hall until tomorrow, so residents and park users can comment on the proposals and put forward their own ideas on the £100,000 update. The exhibition will be open from 9am to 4pm.

■ £2,750 worth of drugs found after car is stopped

Prison for man who 'looked after' big cocaine haul

By Oliver Evans

A 23-YEAR-OLD man, who held on to £2,750 of cocaine out of "fear" from the person who gave it to him, has been jailed for 20 months.

Naqash Hussain was found with 32g of the drug after a car he was in was stopped by police in Cherry Road, Banbury, on December 12.

John Simmons, defending at Oxford Crown Court, said Hussain was asked to "look after the dealers' stash" by an un-named person.

He said: "Sadly, his fear of repercussions was greater than his fear of displeasing the court."

Mr Simmons added: "I respectfully suggest it was naive more than anything.

"Of course he should have said: 'No, I want nothing to do with it'."

Hussain, of Prescott Avenue, Neithrop, pleaded guilty to possessing a class-A drug with intent to supply.

Jailed: Naqash Hussain

Jonathan Stone, prosecuting, said he was one of five people in a Volkswagen Passat that had been stopped by officers acting on information.

Hussain produced the drug – with a street value of £2,750 – at a police station when he was told his boxer shorts would be searched.

Of the people in the car, two were charged, one entered a guilty plea for cannabis possession, two faced no charges and one was cautioned.

There was "nothing at all" to indicate Hussain was dealer, but the quantity of drugs found on him could "not have been for personal use", Mr Stone said.

Mr Simmons said Hussain had 13 previous convictions, including vehicle theft, possession of cannabis and harassment.

Judge Patrick Eccles conceded Hussain may have been "foolish."

But he added: "It is an important part of the class-A drugs chain that somebody like you can be persuaded to agree to look after a consignment of drugs when the dealers wish to avoid the risk of detection."

Judge Eccles added: "You have been in frequent contact with the law. You demonstrated little respect for the law or for other people."

Yet he gave him credit for an early guilty plea.

Hussain was also told to pay a £100 victims' surcharge.

County's 111 health hotline 'is effective'

NHS bosses have moved to reassure the public about the future of Oxfordshire's 111 non-emergency telephone service.

It comes after NHS direct, which provides 11 of the 46 regional contracts, announced it was seeking to pull out of its contracts due to financial problems.

The Oxfordshire service, which was launched in 2012, is provided by South Central Ambulance Service. GP out-of-hours services are provided by Oxford Health.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (OCCG) governing body agreed on July 25 to discuss extending the current contracts until July 2015.

Dr Angela Jones, OCCG clinical governance lead for 111 in Oxfordshire, said: "We would like to reassure people that although NHS 111 has experienced difficulties elsewhere in the country, the service in Oxfordshire provides a high-quality, safe and effective service for patients.

"It is under continuous review by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure this level of service is maintained."

OCCG said a February survey of patient satisfaction with 111 in Oxfordshire found 84 per cent of patients were happy with the service.

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Judge imposes community order after 'grab' at a 14-year-old

Man admits 'bottom pat'

A MARRIED man who admitted "grabbing" a 14-year-old girl's bottom has been given a community order.

Oxford Crown Court was told last week that David Sherburn, 38, worked with the teenager at a charity shop in Banbury in 2011.

She had asked him to buy alcohol for her and her friends. After he did, Sherburn asked for a kiss, prosecutor Michael Roques said.

By Tom Jennings

She refused but agreed to a hug. As she walked away, he "grabbed" her bottom, Mr Roakes added.

The court was told that Sherburn also sent the 14-year-old "smutty" text messages, including a picture of his private parts.

The offence came to light after a friend of the teenager told their mother about the alcohol, who then informed a teacher, the court was told.

Police initially charged Sherburn, who lives in Bloxham Road, Milcombe, with a grooming offence but this was later changed to sexual assault of a child.

Judge Mary Mowat said: "You pleaded guilty at the earliest possible opportunity to sexual activity with a child, which consisted of grabbing or patting a girl of 14 on the bottom.

"It is quite clear you were attracted to her, you admitted as much, but she used you to buy alcohol for her and her friends, which of course you should not have done."

Judge Mowat said a three-year sexual offenders order would be "over-kill" and gave Sherburn a community order, with a 12-month supervision requirement.

She added: "That in itself is quite a heavy punishment, in my view, for an offence of this kind."

InBRIEF

Views on NHS gluten aid ban

■ VIEWS are being sought on a controversial change to restrict access to gluten-free food on NHS prescription. Bosses at NHS Oxfordshire limited prescriptions to flour and bread in October last year. Charity Coeliac UK banded the move "draconian". About one in 100 people are thought to have intolerance to gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley, known as coeliac disease. Take a survey at tinyurl.com/q7yqq4e or send views to Julia.stackhouse@nhs.net

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates' courts around the county

■ **ADAM COLES**, 32, of Longleat Close, Banbury, admitted common assault and possessing a loaded air weapon, namely a BB gun, at Cherwell Drive, Banbury, on April 27. Given a four-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay £50 compensation, £80 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. The BB gun was confiscated and destroyed.

■ **FREDDIE CURTIS**, 27, of Cornish Road, Chipping Norton, admitted assaulting two people, causing bodily harm and using unlawful violence such that another person at the scene would have feared for their personal safety at Horsefair, Chipping Norton, on February 2. Sent to prison for 18 weeks and ordered to pay £1,450 compensation.

■ **JAMES CURTIS**, 23, of Burford Road, Chipping Norton, admitted assaulting by beating and using unlawful violence such that another person at the scene would have feared for their personal safety at Horsefair, Chipping Norton, on February 2. Given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months and told to pay compensation of £250, costs of £85 and a victims' surcharge of £80.

■ **LEANNE MCFARLANE**, 25, of Boxhedge Road West, Banbury, convicted of travelling on a railway without paying a fare of £4.50 on January 21 at Bicester North railway station. Fined £400 and told to pay £4.50 compensation, a £40 victims' surcharge and £125 costs.

■ **ROCKY BURTON**, 27, of Oxford Road, Old Chalford, Chipping Norton, admitted shoplifting a teddy bear worth £150 from The Teddy Bear Shop in High Street, Witney, on May 19. Fined £10, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **FENTON OSBOURNE**, 45, of Samuelson Court, Banbury, admitted possession of cannabis in Marlborough Road, Banbury, on July 12. Fined £135, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **DANIEL TODD**, 35, of Ruskin Road, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Springfield Avenue, Banbury, on July 11. Had 110mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Disqualified from driving for two years and ordered to do 80 hours of unpaid community work. Also told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **PAUL THOMPSON**, 24, of Aldous Drive, Bloxham, admitted possessing cocaine in Banbury on March 2. Fined £200, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **IAN MELLOR**, 33, of Ashby Court, Newland Road, Banbury, admitted shoplifting two perfume gift sets worth £84 from Boots in Lockheed Close, Banbury, on April 8. Also admitted stealing six perfume gift sets worth £142.50 from the same store on April 9. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, told to pay £129 compensation, a £15 victims' surcharge, and £40 costs.

■ **ANDREW FOX**, 41, of Kemps Road, Twyford, Banbury, convicted of criminal damage to the value of £1,600 to the door and windscreen of a Ford Mondeo in Kemps Road, Twyford, on February 2. Community order made and told to do 150 hours of unpaid community work in the next 12 months. Restraining order also made. Told to pay £1,000 compensation, a £60 victims' surcharge, and £375 costs.

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InBRIEF

Countryside campaign

A CAMPAIGN to tackle rural crime has been announced by police, who have promised 100 days of action across the region. Thames Valley Police is to increase patrols and target known criminals for ten days in each rural police area. The campaign will run for five days in the summer and another five in the winter.

Solar power

ELECTRIC bills at Cherwell District Council are to be cut by £78,000 a year after new solar panels generated enough energy to power 100 homes.

The panels were installed at five council sites last year at a cost of £854,457 and it was originally thought they would save the authority £72,000 a year.

But after a year figures show they are producing more energy than first thought.

Support date

A SUPPORT group for sufferers of lymphatic cancer and their families will meet on Wednesday, August 28.

The North Oxfordshire Lymphoma Association support group will meet at the Postgraduate Centre in Horton Hospital from 7pm.

Details: 0808 808 5555 or visit lymphomas.org.uk

Council is 'already paying the price of planning appeal costs'

Rethink is urged over civic wind farms policy

By Oliver Evans

WIND farm policy in North Oxfordshire could be reviewed over concerns it allows them to be located too near to homes.

Cherwell District Council is set to re-examine its 2011 policy over fears it could face high costs over planning battles.

In 2010, the Planning Inspectorate overturned a council decision and approved a £10m plan for four turbines between Fritwell and Fewcott.

This cost the council £7,007 in legal fees. Permission has run out and developer Bolsterstone PLC has applied for another three years.

And a 86.5m-high turbine has also been approved for Cherwell Valley Services, off the M40 at Ardley. Caversfield district councillor Jon O'Neill plans to urge the council's overview and scrutiny committee to carry out a review of the policy.

He claimed the council "does not currently have in operation a robust policy for the development of wind farms".

The key is the Cherwell guidelines that suggest how close turbines can be to homes – at least 800m away – and no less than three times the turbine's height, he said.

Currently the policy is that settlements of more than ten homes should not have turbines in more than 90 degrees of their field of view for a distance of 5km.

Turbines should also be refused if visually intrusive or noisy within 400m of properties and within 2km of "heritage assets".

Mr O'Neill said the council was "already paying the price in terms of planning appeal costs".

The Conservative called for a "full review and for the creation of a stronger and more robust policy".

He said: "I am not looking to ask for a specific change. What I am asking for is to make sure it is robust and proper and gives value for money."

This was vital in light of the new guidance and because the previous policy was written at the "11th hour" to address the Fewcott plan, he said.

It comes after the Government released new guidance about renewable energy, like wind farms.

It said plans did "not automatically override local environmental and heritage protections and the concerns of local communities".

Nigel Hall, of Hanwell, was among those who successfully fought plans for five to eight turbines of 130m – almost as high as Blackpool Tower – in 2011. It was rejected on appeal.

He said of the policy: "I don't think it is robust enough for the villages. I don't think they take into account the impact on the look of the area."

Ardley Parish Council's Ian Corkin, who opposed the Bolsterstone plan, said guidelines should be part of the council's "Local Plan" – a blueprint of future planning policy.

The Fewcott resident said: "The guidelines, as they are written, would be robust enough if they were properly adopted into the Local Plan."

James Macnamara, the councillor who drew up the 46-page 2011 policy, welcomed a review.

But he said the plans must be "defendable" for appeals, adding: "If a decision is too severe, then it will be knocked back."

Co-op staff offer a helping hand

STAFF from The Midcounties Co-operative visited a home for the disabled to clean up the garden.

Volunteers from the disability diversity team went to Agnes Court, Warwick Road, Banbury.

Colin Webber, who led the team, said: "We offered help to Agnes Court by providing them with a team of volunteers who successfully weeded, tidied and spruced up their front gardens.

"It's an opportunity for us get out into the community as a team to help."

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Call to find the county's unsung hero

THE Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire is calling for the county's unsung heroes to be recognised for a national award.

Nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service are to be made by Monday, September 30.

The award recognises the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers.

It has an equivalent status for voluntary groups as the MBE has for individuals.

Last year's recipients included West Oxfordshire fundraising group Carterton Lions.

To nominate go to qavs.direct.gov.uk

Jams loom as roadworks are started

RESURFACING works, which will see two major roads closed for weeks, have started in Chipping Norton.

Work in the town started on Monday and the A44 and A361 in Chipping Norton will be closed for three weeks.

Signed diversion routes will be in place to take through traffic away from the town and 7.5-tonne weight limits will be in force on minor roads outside the town to prevent rat-running by lorries, including the road through Little Rollright, between the Greedy Goose pub on the A44 at Salford Hill and the A3400 at Butler's Hill.

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Police praised over cutbacks

Chief Constable Sara Thornton

THAMES Valley Police has shown one of the "strongest responses" to public funding cuts, the UK's police inspectorate has said.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary praised the force's bid to cut £56.3m from its budget between 2011 and 2015 – a 12 per cent reduction.

It has already saved £33.4m by limiting officer recruitment, cutting police staff from 3,000 to a final 2,779 and centralising office services, like HR.

While the total number of officers are to fall from 4,343 to 4,285, those manning the frontline will rise from 88 to 92 per cent, one of just four forces set for an increase.

The Inspectorate's report said: "Thames Valley Police faces a smaller savings requirement over this spending review period, compared to other forces, but its low cost base presented a challenge from the outset."

Yet it said there had been "significantly fewer reductions" than other forces but kept a "strong focus on service delivery and crime".

From 2010 to 2013, non-fraud crime fell 21 per cent, compared to 13 per cent in the rest of England and Wales.

It handled fewer crimes and calls than most.

Detection rates were 24.9 per cent, below the 27 per cent UK average, although a public survey found more people were seeing police on the beat.

The report found: "The force has demonstrated one of the strongest responses to the funding challenge."

Chief Constable Sara Thornton praised her officers and said: "It is because of this hard work that the force has been able to deal with the austerity cuts so effectively, maintaining frontline officers and staff, and cutting crime across the three counties it covers."

More than 100 under tens investigated

Shock over statistics of junior crime

By Ben Wilkinson

CHILDREN in the county under the age of ten have been linked to crimes including rape, possession of firearms, and assault.

The Thames Valley Police statistics show 108 youngsters, aged between six and nine, were involved in crimes between April 2010 and March this year.

Children under the age of ten cannot be held criminally responsible, so no charges can be brought by police.

The figures reveal in Oxford last year – April 2012 to March 2013 – two six-year-olds were linked to criminal damage of vehicles and an eight-year-old was involved in a serious assault. In West Oxfordshire, a five-year-old was linked to a sexual assault on a boy under the age of 13 in 2011/2012 and in the Cherwell area an eight-year-old was involved in a harassment crime.

In the South and Vale, youngsters were linked to crimes including being in charge of a dangerously out-of-control dog and rape of a girl under the age of 13. In 2011/2012, a nine-year-old was involved in a possession of a firearm crime.

Last November, it was reported that 1,924 children aged 17 or under had committed crimes in Oxfordshire in a year.

The Freedom of Information figures also revealed a 12-year-old sex offender, a 13-year-old drug criminal, an 11-year-old fraudster, a 12-year-old burglar, and a ten-year-old questioned over a vehicle crime.

In May this year, it was revealed that Thames Valley Police took DNA swabs from 1,736 children, aged 17 or younger, in 2011. One sample came from a two-year-old.

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InBRIEF

Debate over the homeless

CHERWELL District Council has launched a consultation process over its Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

The plan details the way the council aims to tackle homelessness prevention over the next year.

Residents will be able to have their say, as well as a range of statutory and voluntary agencies.

The closing date for consultation is August 31.

Jobs advice

AN apprentice workshop will take place in Banbury later this month. The ApprenticeSHOPS are designed to give advice to young people as GCSE and A-level results draw near.The session will be held in Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre on August 22 and 23.

Lights remain

TEMPORARY traffic lights will remain in use on the Bankside flyover, Banbury, until the end of the month. Workmen from the county council started work in the area on Monday, May 27. The work is expected to be completed no earlier than Friday, August 30.

NSPCC wants to hammer home the danger of sexual exploitation

Charity in call for sex lessons to help guard children

By Oliver Evans

THE NSPCC wants to stage child sexual exploitation lessons in Oxfordshire primary schools, because of concerns that vital messages are being missed.

The child protection charity is seeking volunteers to take its free ChildLine service assemblies and workshops to the county's primaries from next month.

The move comes in the wake of the May conviction of seven men for operating a sex gang that targeted vulnerable young girls in Oxford – investigated by police as part of Operation Bullfinch.

The charity said it had had "positive meetings" with Oxfordshire County Council – which is responsible for child protection. The authority is to alert all schools about the service on offer.

So far, 17 schools have already been contacted by the charity. Four have expressed an interest.

The charity's head of strategy and development, Jon Brown, said the issue could be taught in personal, social and health education lessons.

But he said: "We feel it is delivered in far too a diverse a way in schools. Some do it very well, others do not do it all.

"The fragmentation of the education system, with the arrival of academies and free schools, has, to some extent, altered the coherent approach that was previously in place."

The charity had wanted to operate the service in the county before Operation Bullfinch, he said, but had not been able to recruit a manager.

The programme had been brought to more than 200,000 primary school children in other parts of the UK since it was established two years ago.

One of the charity's workshop managers, William Shaw, said: "We know a lot of children and young people who call us, are of secondary school age. But they often say that incidents happened when they were a lot younger."

Volunteers, particularly those with experience of communicating with young children, will go online and finish their training with a two-day face-to-face session, he said. All volunteers are criminal records bureau checked.

Oxfordshire MP Nicola Blackwood – who was closely involved with the Bullfinch case – said she was "very supportive" of the scheme.

She said: "While this is a sensitive subject, it is important that we ensure that children in this age group are given the tools and support they need to keep themselves safe."

MP Nicola Blackwood

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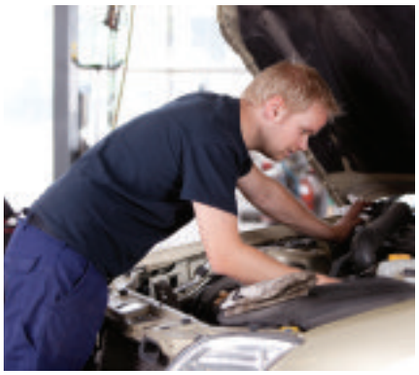

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Preparing a festive feast

Katherine MacAlister meets Sam Clark, of Moro, and who will be offering her special style of food at Wilderness

SAM Clark is a hero of mine, not least because she cooks like a goddess but mainly because she's made it in a man's world without taking them on at their own game.

Sam has relied instead on her innate skill and food knowledge to get to the top, despite being self-taught.

Headlining the Wilderness Festival's culinary line-up for the third year running, Sam can't wait for the fun to begin, not that she's under any illusions of how much hard work is involved – having served thousands of people at the event last year.

And yet 16 years ago, when she first opened her restaurant, Moro, she wondered if she was about to lose everything. But, because of the Clarks' pared-back style, fresh ingredients and Moorish food, it was an instant hit.

Having fine-tuned her culinary skills at a gastropub, and then alongside Jamie Oliver at the River Cafe, Sam had always been desperate to open her own place, alongside her husband Sam (she's a Samantha, he's a Samuel).

The Clark's honeymoon had consisted of three months in a campervan driving through Spain, Morocco and the Sahara, while exploring the very food they were about to start cooking. She said: "It gave us an edge and made our food richer and more authentic – something you just can't get from a cookbook."

The Clarks have since opened up a tapas bar and are now branching into festivals and food markets to spread the "Moro" word. Sam added: "It's all self-inflicted but we want to keep up with the food theme and vibe because it's exploded recently. Yet regardless of the achievements and accolades, the successes, books, and new openings, Sam remains very much in the background, avoiding the limelight enjoyed by other equally high-profile chefs. "Yes, I'm quite shy," she admits, "So when I met Sam, my-husband-to-be, it was very gradual. Talking about food was a great ice breaker."

Sam Clark will be serving her signature Moorish cuisine at Moro's dining tent at Wilderness

Impossible to imagine them apart now, the pair manage their little empire alongside a growing family (their children are 12, ten and three).

And yet Sam almost didn't venture into cooking at all, admitting that she "drifted" into food, rather than having an action plan.

She said: "I went to school and uni, spent time in France and Italy, discovered Spain, came home and fell into a job as a waitress. Then I talked to the chef one day and he offered me a job in the kitchens. I had only cooked for family and friends, so I had a very hard six months months cutting and burning myself – but learned how to cook. It felt very natural and I have never looked back.

"All my childhood memories are about food in a semi-obsessive way. My grandmother lived in the South of France, so we went to Provence every summer. She was an amazing cook.

"But when I told my mum I was going to be a chef, I think she was a bit disappointed."

When not working, food still dominates at home too. The pair enjoy working on their allotment and travelling. "We shamelessly nick the other allotment holders' recipes," Sam laughs. "But they always give us things to try out and are so proud of their heritage."

They have just returned from a holiday in Turkey with "wonderful pistachios, kebabs, meats, breads and salads.

"We can never be away from Moro for more than two weeks but it's also important to stay inspired and push ourselves in terms of new menus and to stimulate our chefs, so it's vital to travel as well.

"I've just been to Paris, Sam's been to Istanbul, and then we're going to northern Spain to do part of the Pilgrims Trail and eat the simple but delicious food – chickpea stews, fish, white beans, bread."

Any Moro fans who went to Wilderness last year will be equally as spoiled. "This year we are using produce sourced on the Cornbury estate – lamb slow roasted on a spit, Daylesford fruit and veg and goats cheese from Windrush Valley.

"Wilderness perfectly fits the park – it's a great mix of culture, music and food.

"This year we are pre-armed with a new menu and 100 staff, so we know what to expect."

Seasoned festival-goers then? "We loved it last year – we get a real buzz from it, so it's a real privilege to be involved."

■ *Wilderness Festival,* Cornbury Park, Charlbury, August 8-11
Details: click on *wildernessfestival.com*

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SEE ME SMILE Happy, quiet, caring and reliable Oxford lady, 42, 5'2'', simply searching for a tactile, fun and gentle-natured gent, for friendship, lasting happiness and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142441 or send a text to 80360**

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford mum, 45, genuine, active, attractive, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks, nights in, seeks similar family man, , funny and kind, for friendship first. Let's see what happens. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114046**

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 45, 5'5'', red hair, green eyes, grown up children, loves the outdoors, travel, animals and family life, seeking a genuine guy, 40-50, for true romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360**

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 46, 5'3'', average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116**

TRY AND SEE Fun, blue-eyed Witney girl, 46, active and easygoing, enjoys swimming and keep fit, searching for a kind, caring and genuine guy, to share loving times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144409 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360**

I NEED A HERO Charming, positive Trowbridge female 47, 5'4'', brunette, fun-loving, likes balance and harmony in her life, searching for that special guy. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145473 or send a text to 80360**

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 48, 5'5'', just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140276 or send a text to 80360**

TOP OF THE CLASS Enthusiastic, cultured and vibrant Melksham woman, 49, 5'5'', looking for an enthusiastic, vibrant gent, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138880 or send a text to 80360**

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Fun-loving, affectionate and interesting Swindon female, 50, searching for a fair, upbeat man, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101568**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Attractive, fun, easygoing Cotswold female, 5'7'', enjoys swimming and staying active, would like to meet an honest, caring male for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145546**

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7'', grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

HAVE YOUR CAKE Caring and confident Kenyan lady, 53, 5'9'', would like to meet a warm and genuine man, for happy times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145300 or send a text to 80360**

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SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 54, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360**

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 56, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 56, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

FRIENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive Wiltshire female, 57, widow, brunette, 5'2'', likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360**

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 58, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360**

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GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME Separated, caring Devizes female, 58, genuine, loving, GSOH, likes reading, cooking, meals and cosy nights in, seeking a tall man, for friendship, leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132887 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE EACH DAY AS IT COMES Kind-hearted, musical Oxford woman, 58, would like a date with a calm but motivated, sensitive, kind man, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147740 or send a text to 80360**

HOME LOVER Loyal Bicester lady, 60, 5'4'', searching for an honest, hard-working and affectionate man, for great times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144576 or send a text to 80360**

STRIKE A CHORD WITH ME Active and honest Abingdon female, 60, 5'4'', enjoys reading, gardening and the natural things in life, searching for a nice man, to share friendship, days out and good company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144897 or send a text to 80360**

RELIGHT OUR FIRES Caring, brown-eyed Witney lady, 60, blonde hair, enjoys holidays, cinema, company and much more, searching for a warm-hearted man, to share good times and cuddles. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146902**

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 61, 5'6'', slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487**

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SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6'', GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S ENJOY LIFE Vibrant, sincere Witney female, 63, loves meeting people, good conversations, going out & about, walks, theatre, looking for a similar chap, for companionship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142189**

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 65, 5'5'', loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415 or send a text to 80360**

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 66, 5'5'', slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360**

DAYS OUT Sensitive, genuine, widowed Warminster female, 67, would like to meet an active, outgoing male, for friendship, days out together and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146185 or send a text to 80360**

HIT THE JACKPOT Sincere Swindon lady, 77, enjoys dancing, pubs lunches, theatre and more, searching for a nice gent, with similar interests, for friendship and perhaps more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145190 or send a text to 80360**

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 78, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388 or send a text to 80360**

BLOSSOM WITH TLC Attractive Abingdon widow, 80, would like to meet a non-smoking, active gent, to enjoy days out and cosy times in with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139676**

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837**

FRIENDLY COMPANION Friendly Kidlington male, 35, 5'8'', blue eyes, smoker, loves pubs meals and cosy times in, seeking a female, for love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141321 or send a text to 80360**

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360**

NOW OR NEVER Practical, affable and dependable Oxford male, 39, likes eating out at restaurants, swimming and cycling, seeking a truthful, intelligent, informed lady, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131282 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10'', med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360**

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Confident, friendly Wantage male, 44, 6'4'', green eyes, likes cooking, sports, cinema, looking to meet a black lady, 26-42, to enjoy good company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141512 or send a text to 80360**

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ENERGIZER TIME Honest, friendly and charming Oxford male, 45, 6'3'', stocky build, great sense of humour, enjoys sport, travel, cosy times and social drinks, seeking a fun-loving female, for happier times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360**

NIGHTS FULL OF FUN Outgoing, black Oxford male, 45, 5'8'', medium build, no ties, enjoys going to clubs, dining out and bowling, simply seeking a sociable woman, who enjoys nights out, for fun times and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148230 or send a text to 80360**

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, 6'3'', looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080**

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 46, 5'9'', N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399 or send a text to 80360**

LOTS TO OFFER Smart, curious and constructive Oxford male, 46, 6'2'', would like to meet an interesting, active girl, to build a lasting, happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146182 or send a text to 80360**

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Shy yet sincere Banbury male, 47, would like to meet an honest, bubbly, faithful woman, for loving times and to share a happy future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145482 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427 or send a text to 80360**

LOTS TO GIVE Easygoing, reliable, loyal Bicester male, 48, 5'7'', divorcee, varied interests and enjoys the outdoor life, looking for someone, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143400 or send a text to 80360**

JUST HAVE FUN Affectionate, warmhearted Banbury male, 49, would like to meet fun, bright female to enjoy each others company and share laughter and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145726 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 51, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 51, 5'7'', brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360**

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360**

PURE KINDNESS Blue-eyed Bicester male, 52, 5'10'', own home, self-employed, searching for a loving African woman, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144560 or send a text to 80360**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479**

GOOD NATURED Upbeat Bicester male, 52, 5'10'', brown hair, medium build, looking for an attractive, black lady, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140492 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

LIVE FOR THE MOMENT Sincere Banbury male, 56, 5'10'', hard working, into DIY, walks and alternative therapies, now searching for an open and honest woman, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144938 or send a text to 80360**

PERFECT TOGETHER Hard-working Oxfordshire male, 60, 6ft, widower, greying hair, smart, likes most things in life, now searching for an equally honest and genuine woman, to share love, life and true happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142767 or send a text to 80360**

PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9'', dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 62, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817**

LUCKY CHARM Serious, lovable and imaginative Malmesbury lady, 55, simply searching for an independent, free-thinking girl, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134242**

FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES Straight, kind Bicester woman, 68, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group, for days out and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186 or send a text to 80360**

PUTTING THE SPARK BACK Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 50, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360**

BE YOUR SIDE Blue-eyed liberal Oxford male, 51, 6'3'', searching for a nice guy, for fun, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125948**

KING OF MY HEART Lively, confident Oxford male, 54, would like to meet a mature, active male, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135675**

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 64, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 66, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 69, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

CARING NATURE Dependable, informed and responsible Witney man, 59, 6'3'', looking for a helpful, decent woman, to share a brighter future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6'', slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360**

MORE THAN WORDS Solvent, articulate, retired North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9'', own home and car, with a love of theatre, travel, motorsport and more, seeks an elegant, feminine woman, for friendship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 68, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285**

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 78, likes a drink sometimes, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

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Comic cops whirlwind blows a gale force ten

THE HEAT (15, 117 mins)
Comedy/Action. Sandra Bullock, Melissa McCarthy, Demian Bichir, Michael Rapaport, Marlon Wayans, Taran Killam, Dan Bakkedahl.
Director: Paul Feig.

Two years ago, *Bridesmaids* wooed UK audiences with the wickedly foul-mouthed antics of six 30-something women behaving badly. Paul Feig's hysterical film was nominated for two Oscars, including a richly deserved nod for Melissa McCarthy as Best Supporting Actress with her unforgettable portrayal of a raunchy singleton, desperate to get her man.

McCarthy's comic whirlwind blows to gale force ten once again in *The Heat*, an oestrogen-fuelled buddy cop caper that proves ladies can be every bit as politically incorrect and rough 'n' tumble as the lads.

In a rare instance of perfect casting, she is paired with Oscar winner Sandra Bullock, who is one of the few A-list actresses willing and, more importantly, able to humiliate herself on screen for our amusement.

The two leads spark off each other brilliantly, milking belly laughs from Katie Dippold's hit-and-miss script that both embraces and subverts hoary cliches of the genre.

Every time the joke of the mismatched heroines threatens to wear thin, Bullock and McCarthy crank up the slapstick and verbal one-upwomanship, including a brilliantly simple visual gag with a knife that draws as many winces as guffaws.

FBI Special Agent Sarah Ashburn (Bullock) is one of the brightest operatives in the New York field office run by Hale (Demian Bichir). Unfortunately, her lack of people skills rubs colleagues up the wrong way.

Hale dispatches Sarah to Boston, promising her promotion if she can work with the local detectives to bring down an enigmatic drug kingpin named Larkin.

"You do well with this, we can talk about the job," he promises.

In Boston, Sarah clashes with rebel cop Shannon Mullins (Melissa McCarthy), who has bullied the men at her precinct into cowering submission.

When someone suggests Shannon might be racist, she counters at full volume, "9/10 guys I have sex with are black!"

Sarah refuses to submit to Shannon's intimidation but knows that she must work with this loose cannon for the sake of promotion. So, the two women reluctantly join forces to unmask Larkin.

Unfortunately, their haphazard tactics jeopardise a long-running undercover operation masterminded by DEA agents Adam (Taran Killam) and Craig (Dan Bakkedahl).

If the litmus test for any comedy is how much you laugh out loud, then *The Heat* sizzles.

Bullock and McCarthy are a formidable double-act, the latter spitting in the eye of subtlety as she bulldozes through supporting cast, cackling as grown men tumble in her wake.

Initial rivalry between the characters mellows, somewhat inevitably, into sisterly solidarity, adding a sentimental sheen to closing frames.

First-time feature scriptwriter Dippold doesn't know how to handle a lukewarm romantic subplot between Sarah and nice guy Levy (Marlon Wayans), so that particular strand remains frustratingly underdeveloped.

A scene from *The Heat*, with Sandra Bullock, as Ashburn, and Melissa McCarthy, as Mullins

Picture: PA Photo/ Fox UK

CakeWhat's on

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:
Aug 8, workshop - The Enchanged Forest, with Shona Edwards. What will you discover as you journey through the forest? This theatre workshop uses movement, sound and visual arts to delve into the world of fantasy. Please bring a packed lunch and drink (no fizzy drinks please). Comfortable clothing and sensible shoes. £16 for the day – children 5-8 years. From 10am.
Box office: *01295 279002*.

The Great Western Arms, Aynho, Banbury:
Aug 14, *Don't Shoot The Messenger !* Outdoor show, presented by Mikron Theatre. 7.30pm. There will be a collection taken after the show. Food and drink available. *01869 338288*.

The Pig Place, NB Acres, Aynho Road, Adderbury:
Aug 15, *Beyond The Veil* Outdoor show, presented by Mikron Theatre. 7.30pm. There will be a collection taken after the show. Food and drink available from 6.30pm. Seating on straw bales, or please bring own seating. *07892 8794478*.

Wharf House, Cropredy:
Aug 16, *Don't Shoot The Messenger !* Outdoor show, presented by Mikron Theatre. 7.30pm. £11 (£9 concession). Please bring own picnics, chairs and blankets.
Aug 17, *Beyond The Veil* Outdoor show, presented by Mikron Theatre. 7.30pm. £11 (£9 concession). Please bring own picnics, chairs and blankets. *01295 750633*.

The Wharf Inn, Wharf Road, Fenny Compton:
Aug 18, *Beyond The Veil* Outdoor show, presented by Mikron Theatre. 7.30pm. There will be a collection taken after the show. Food and drink available. *01295 770332*.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:
Aug 9-10, *Push Me, Pull You*. A striking new piece of circus, in which you won't quite believe your eyes. Using a combination of traditional circus skills and dance acrobatics, this is a show about the friendship, trust and unique relationship between performer and backstage technician. Accompanied by original music, the talented pair lead you on an unusual journey inside a seemingly impossible circus act. Together they show what is normally hidden in the dark. Fri 7pm, Sat 2.30, 7.30pm. £12 (£10).
Aug 13-17, *Mies Julie*, by Yael Farber, based on Strindberg's Miss Julie. In the kitchen of a remote South African house, 18years after the end of apartheid, a single night of brutality and tenderness unfolds between a black farm labourer and his white master's daughter. The visceral struggles of contemporary South Africa are laid bare as the couple's deadly attraction spirals out of control and they battle over power, sexuality, memory, mothers and land.
Tue-Thu, Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, matinees Thu, Sat 2.30pm. £26-£17.
Box office: *01865 305305*.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Craig Haupt, who led Banbury to victory over Potters Bar

Haupt hammers a hundred

VETERAN opener Craig Haupt hit a hundred as Banbury beat hosts Potters Bar by four wickets in a thriller on Saturday.

The big left-hander stroked 16 boundaries in his run-a-ball century as the visitors kept up their pursuit of Henley at the top of Division 1.

Chasing the home side's total of 201-6 off 60 overs in a rain-reduced game, Banbury got home off the last ball.

There were useful knocks from opening batsman Lloyd Sabin (34) and Jonny Cater (23), but Haupt was the mainstay of the Banbury innings. He was eventually out 15 runs short of victory when he was caught off the bowling of Daniel Pascoe.

Earlier, Banbury had won the toss and put Potters Bar in to bat.

Openers Brady Barends and Ashley Blanchard both took early wickets to leave the hosts 20-2, but Tanweer Sikandar and keeper Harrison Palmer dug in to take Potters Bar to 105-2.

Spinner Jimmy Phillips, the hero with the ball last week, then bowled Sikandar for 52, and Palmer went not long afterwards, trapped in front by Luke Ryan for 40.

Daniel Pascoe and Patrick Scott took the home side to 175-4, before Pascoe (32) was stumped by Cater off the bowling of Richard West.

West then removed Lenny Cooper second ball, Nathan Hawkes claiming the catch, and he also took the wicket of Ben Taylor third ball to finish with figures of 3-20.

Scott's 49 from 53 balls featured three sixes, but his side's 201-8 from 60 overs never really looked like being enough with Haupt in such fine form.

Banbury take on leaders Henley this weekend.

SCORECARD

POTTERS BAR

D Breeze b Barends	7
P Sodbodjor c Ryan b Blanchard	5
T Sikandar b Phillips	52
H Palmer lbw b Ryan	40
D Pascoe st Cater b West	32
P Scott run out	49
L Cooper c Hawkes b West	0
B Taylor lbw b West	1
D Pett not out	9
T Walallawita not out	4
Extras	2
Total (8 wkts, 60 ovs)	201

Fall: 1-8, 2-20, 3-105, 4-117, 5-175, 6-175, 7-187, 8-187.

Bowling: Barends 10-3-33-1; Blanchard 10-4-24-1, Wright 7-2-22-0, Ryan 19-3-66-1, Phillips 9-0-34-1, West 5-0-20-3.

BANBURY

L Sabin b Walallawita	34
C Haupt c Breeze b Pascoe	102
I Tew c Breeze b Walallawita	1
N Hawkes c&b Pascoe	4
J Cater c Sikandar b Pascoe	23
R West st Scott b Pascoe	15
L Ryan not out	11
A Blanchard not out	8
Extras	4
Total (6 wkts, 44 ovs)	202

Fall: 1-57, 2-67, 3-76, 4-147, 5-180, 6-187.

Bowling: Sikandar 14-1-50-0; Boyce 3-1-20-0; Walallawita 12-0-60-2; Pascoe 15-1-68-4.

Potters Bar 9pts, Banbury 25

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Mars plays games with you and so you'll be finding it hard to work out what recent events really meant as not even those concerned have their faith and clarity back yet. Looking on the lighter side of life is your key to keeping your sanity. Solo projects in your career go really well at this time, especially if they involve travel. Ring now to hear how lying cannot be an option this week.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

I'm hoping (really hoping) that this will be the week you deal with the past, by putting it down to experience, an experience which you could not have found current faces without. If you don't, you could make those close to you think that this negative mood is how you always are. Show your fun side, this weekend is crying out for you to do so. Ring me to put the pleasure back into life again.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Life has gone by at such a fast pace recently, that you don't really know what to make of things, do you Taurus? What you have to realize though, is that no one is asking you to make up your mind. How can you possibly when you're only half way through your story? Time spent with older faces from your past helps restore your confidence again. Ring now so we can talk.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You should be feeling far more aware of the situations which are going on around you this week. No longer do you feel out of control, you're in the driving seat. I know a close one is still sending mixed signals but you'll find out why by Friday if you can be patient just a little while longer. Ring now to hear how Venus has your back in all things romantic.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Prepare yourself for a busy week Gemini and try not to waste time taking on and promising more than you can handle. Working as a team on Wednesday and Thursday can be good for both finances and business. Selling and buying properties is also lucky now, but don't be afraid to slow your pace. Saturn is on your side, not against you. Phone now to utilise your best assets.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You don't have to forget the past, but you do have to acknowledge the present Sagittarius. If you don't, then how are you going to take advantage of all the wonderful situations happening around you. Money matters prove lucky from Wednesday when deals you do and financial plans you make get you back in the black. Call now to hear how foreign links soon beckon to you.

0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You have the power right now to turn any weakness into a strength, as work you put into understanding what makes you tick helps you address the issues in your life in a more mature and educated manner. Cancelled travel plans turn out to be a blessing in disguise as they gives you time to work on a personal issue. Ring now to hear how this is a great week for single crabs.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Someone has managed to make you think you're not good enough in some way. This week you can, and should, come bouncing back as opportunities arise for you to show not only that you know what you want, but that you can get it too. Plans made with family are not as firm as you think, so double check arrangements which could turn out to be costly. Ring now for news in full.

0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

If you haven't done something you were supposed to, then don't lie but try to tell the truth. You may not realise it but the stars are making the majority of the zodiac far more psychic than usual and you could end up both looking and feeling the fool. Don't feel pushed out of your friendship circle this week. You'll be glad you've got the space when you find out what's gone on. Ring now for clarity.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Education is well starred and if you were thinking of learning something new or even brushing up on old skills then you're going to find all of the support and attention you need to help you. Making time for a face you haven't seen so far this month can help them to move on from an event which has been dragging them down. Ring now for more on this very giving and charitable week.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

I actually don't have a clue in the world as to why you're so hard on yourself all the time Virgo. OK, I know you're an earth sign but that's no excuse for you not to listen to your heart. You could, of course, always try getting your heart and head to communicate? Try on Thursday or Friday for some life changing answers! Give me a call now to hear how contracts signed now bring happiness.

0906 585 4365

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

New talents which come to light this week show you that the world is your oyster and you don't and won't do just what others think is right for you. Far away lands and ambitious plans make for an exciting, if not costly, time ahead. Just make a list of actions sooner rather than later so you don't miss out on what you really want to be your priority. Ring now for sense and structure.

0906 585 4371

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What's On

SUNBEAM RAPIER'S 1ST RALLY IN 5 YEARS!

Followers of the Sunbeam Rapier will be getting together for their first national gathering in five years this month.

The Sunbeam Rapier Owners Club will be inviting anyone passionate about the rakish classics along to the Oxfordshire village of Bodicote, near Banbury, for a weekend of events on August 16-17 including a scenic drive through the county and a visit to the Rootes National Archive.

Entry to the event, which focuses on the village's showground, is free of charge, although programmes for the rally cost £2.50. Other draws for members are the chance to take part in driving tests, a concours competition, and an evening party.

It is the first national gathering for the club since 2008, with organisers until now favouring regional meetings, which are easier for members to reach.

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£9,250

Peugeot

PEUGEOT 106

3 dr 1100cc 02 reg mot May 2014 serviced new driveshafts good cond £875 ono, 100000 miles

0773260988

£875

PEUGEOT 107

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07446 902068

£2,850

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Tel: 01793 436624

£895

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RENAULT CLIO

Black, 2001, 5 speed, manual, petrol, C/RL, sunroof, CD, FSH, 2 lady owners, 11 mths MOT, 5 mths tax, great car, 87,000 miles

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Eco Toledo tuned up for economy

By David Duffy

The cliché of not judging a book by its cover never applied to any car as much as the new SEAT Toledo.

Externally there is nothing fussy, fancy or flash about the car, and even less to write home inside. But don't be fooled by first impressions.

Combine this apparently plain Jane with the right engine and you have a family car of truly impressive proportions.

The fourth-generation Toledo combines saloon looks with the flexibility of a five-door hatchback, and with prices starting at about £12,500, the emphasis is firmly on value. No frills and definitely no thrills, the major plus point of the Toledo is space — lots of it.

Built on an extended version of the Ibiza platform, the car has a longer wheelbase than the previous model to give plenty of room for passengers and a truly whopping boot, accessed from a wide-opening tailgate.

Comfortably seating five adults, the amount of space is matched by a range of five engines that deliver impressive fuel economy, with a choice of five- and six-speed manual gearboxes and a seven-speed DSG twin-clutch automatic. Choose the Ecomotive version and economy rockets from the merely impressive to astonishing. The 105 horsepower engine fitted to the Ecomotive, the most efficient car in the range, is clearly tuned for maximum efficiency, with a leisurely 0-62mph acceleration time of 10.6 secs. Aside from its 104 g/km CO_2 emissions rating, which gives it a free tax disc during the first year of ownership and just £20 per year thereafter, the Toledo Ecomotive delivers great fuel economy for a car with so much space.

SEAT claims the test model's 1.6-litre turbo-diesel, with stop-start technology, can deliver day-to-day fuel consumption of 70mpg, giving a theoretical range of more than 800 miles on a full tank. My mix of rush-hour crawling and motorway cruising couldn't match that, but still gave a full-tank range of well over 700 miles.

Built alongside the Skoda Rapid in the Volkswagen Group's Mlada Boleslav factory in the Czech Republic, the Toledo's interior is plain and fuss-free. The cabin includes a lot of hard plastic surfaces and while it looks business-like, it has all been well screwed together and is happily rattle-free. The car is clearly built for buyers on a budget, but it is available with a full range of comfort, convenience, luxury and safety equipment.

Anyone taking a short test drive in the new Toledo might come away unimpressed. Live with it for a while and you quickly start to understand just what a superbly capable family car this can be.

NO FRILLS: The Toledo is built for family buyers on a budget

Auto facts

Model: SEAT Toledo 1.6 TDI Ecomotive
Price: £17,840
Insurance group: 15E (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 70.6mpg
Top speed: 118mph
Length: 448.2cm/176.4in
Width: 176.6cm/69.5in
Luggage capacity: 19.4 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 12.1 gallons/55 litres
CO_2 emissions: 104g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Wheelsanddeals

- THE Renault Megane is now available as a new special edition called the Knight. It will be built in five-door hatchback, three-door coupe and longer Sport Tourer estate body styles, and consists of both cosmetic and specification upgrades. Its extra features include striking dark chrome wheels, more aggressive bumpers from the GT model, a dark chrome rear diffuser, dark chrome exterior detail styling and electrically folding door mirrors, as well as rear parking sensors. Prices start at £17,095 for the hatchback.
- **SEAT'S first Leon estate comes with significantly more luggage space than the hatchback – with almost exactly the same volume as the Skoda Octavia hatchback. Otherwise, the car is broadly similar to the five-door Leon, albeit with a new, greater range of high-tech options. No comment is available on prices yet, but dealers are expecting an increase of about £800 over the five-door hatchback.**

Futurecarscene

Driverless cars take a step closer to reality

DRIVERLESS cars are back in the news following the Government's decision that trials will be allowed to take place on UK roads.

The most surprising thing about this announcement, though, is that many drivers aren't aware how much technology of these fully driverless cars is already in their possession.

As long ago as 2004, Mercedes-Benz fitted radar-guided cruise control to its range-topping S-Class, the luxury saloon that has always been the showcase for the latest technology. Rather than the common cruise control that simply maintained a set speed, the guidance system used front-mounted radar to monitor the road ahead and the distance to the car (or any object) in front.

If the gap closed to below the pre-determined distance it would gently apply the brakes, and when the gap opened again accelerate back to the set speed. It had a remarkable range of operation between 0-124mph, so that hundreds of miles could be covered without the driver touching the pedals at all. Almost a decade on, radar-cruise control is available on a wide range of cars.

Honda took a similar system to a new level with the introduction of its AKAS technology. Using a second radar camera mounted in the windscreen, it picked up on dividing white lines on dual carriageways and motorways and, once activated, it would add very subtle steering inputs to keep the car perfectly between the lines. It wasn't a hands-off system, merely one designed to reduce driver fatigue. Remove your hands from the wheel altogether and the system would detect it and de-activate.

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04	04	**BMW 316 TI ES COMPACT 1.8,** Met Green, A/C Alloys, E/W, C/L	£16		£3499
07	07	**CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 1.0,** Yellow, 5 dr, Manuel, Elec Windows, CD	£16		£3499
04	04	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE,** 3 Door, Blue, PAS, CD, Airbag, Elec Windows	£14		£2999
03	03	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI,** 3 Door, Met Gold, Elec Windows, Airbags, CD	£14		£2999
04	04	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS,** 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags	£14		£2999
03	03	**FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA,** Light Gold, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£13		£2799
04	04	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC,** 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£13		£2699
02	52	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI,** Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbag, Elec Windows	£13		£2699
02	02	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI,** Silver, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Air Bags	£13		£2699
03	03	**FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC,** 3 Door, Silver, A/C, Elec Windows, Airbags, Ideal First Car	£12		£2599
01	51	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX,** 5 Door, Cyprus Green, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, PAS, Ideal First Car	£12		£2499
		MPV'S & 4X4'S			
07	07	**VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.9 TDI,** Silver, 7 Seat, A/C, CD, Alloys, Sport Seats, Ideal Family Car	£37		£7999
08	08	**FORD CMAX ZETEC 1.6 TDCI,** Metallic Red, 5dr, Manuel, Privacy Glass, Alloys, A/C	£28		£5999
07	57	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 7 SEAT,** New Shape, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£25		£5299
04	04	**KIA SEDONA LE 2.9 DIESEL,** Blue, Privacy Glass, Elec Windows, A/C, CD	£19		£3999
07	57	**CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI VTX DIESEL,** Dark Bronze, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows	£18		£3999
05	55	**NISSAN ALMERA TINO S AUTOMATIC,** Silver, ½ Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£16		£3499

*Typical Finance example: Cash Price£8999, deposit of£1000, balance to finance£7999 plus charges for credit£2099.60. Payable by 59 monthly payments of£168.31 plus one final payment of£168.31, total amount payable£11098.60. 9.9% APR. Credit provided subject to status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply.

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1000cc to 1295cc from	£129.90	£64.95	£159.95	£72.95	£196.45	£133.70
1300cc to 1599cc from	£139.95	£69.90	£166.90	£89.98	£200.45	£146.90
1600cc to 1790cc from	£154.50	£74.95	£171.50	£97.50	£220.90	£154.90
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†Finance subject to status, written details on request. 50% deposit required, maximum borrowing £5400. Excludes Managers Specials. *Terms and conditions apply. Based on sight of a like for like genuine quotation. Models shown for illustration purposes only.

Paul Da Costa-Greaves

Banbury Food Fair are pleased to welcome Master Chef of Great Britain Paul Da Costa Greaves. Paul is a chef with a difference. Extraordinarily talented and inventive, he combines a magical approach to making and preparing food with great people skills. Colourful, funny and highly original, he brings the most everyday cooking experience to life.

Paul consists of natural Liverpudlian spice who is a cheeky chappie with an infectious personality, adaptable and versatile with flair and a wild imagination; delicately layered with sensual middle notes, being excitable, entertaining, inviting, spontaneous, seductive and devilish.

His cooking has been described as `a male version of Nigella Lawson', and verbally rough like Paul O`Grady! Paul is often described as colourful and funny but highly original bringing the most everyday cooking experience's to life.

Paul is a Masterchef of Great Britain who has created, developed and launched a range of retail food products under his retail brand name Feeding Your Imagination which is already a multi award-winning company. The products include a functional range of therapy chocolate bars where he uses essential oils and herbs for that alternative indulgence.

Paul has also worked closely with numerous celebrities, who have helped and endorsed his range of Therapeutic Chocolates which are regularly show cased on billboard's up and down the country.

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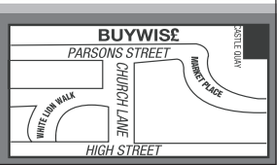

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Banbury Flower & Produce Show is proudly sponsored by Rosemarie Higham

Rosemarie was born in Banbury in 1942, daughter of Harold & Mary (nee. Humphris of Aynho). Flowers are in the family's blood, Mary was a keen gardener and Mary's uncle wrote several books on Aynho, was a expert Orchid grower and supplied Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace.

Rosemarie worked from an early age at the family's business, *Higham Solid Fuels*, in Calthorpe Street. Following her fathers ill health Rosemarie ran the business and in the 1980's opened her retail shop that many know as '*By The Fire*'. This was a much needed venture and supplied fires & fireplaces, etc to properties from small bungalows to Baronial mansions in the surrounding Shires. She has appeared in many televisions programmes relevant to the coal trade, including panorama.

Over many years Rosemarie has been a great supporter and promoter of Banbury. Having entered *By the Fire* into the best kept business category of Banbury in Bloom she took home the first place trophy on many occasions. This progressed into sponsorship of the Banbury in Bloom Tallest Sunflower category, seen in the photo presenting awards.

Rosemarie has served on three Councils and delighted at having been Banbury Town Mayor. She was also chairman and president of the Chamber of Commerce. In Rosemarie's honour Ball Colegrave Seeds bred a Fuchsia named '*Rosemarie Higham*' of which stocks can be obtained.

To Rosemarie's great delight a piece of land, adjacent to which was once the storage depot for coal from 1899, will be named **HIGHAM WAY**. This accolade would make her father and great grandfather very proud, and of course the rest of the Higham family.

Thank you to Rosemarie for her support of the Town and its Community Events

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